

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings and versions of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A cupholder comprising:
at least one cavity for holding a container, said cavity having a curved inner wall;
at least one holding extension extending inwardly toward a center of said cavity from said inner wall; and
first and second gripping flanges extending inwardly from said at least one holding extension, said first and second gripping flanges having respective first and second gripping points at lower ends thereof for gripping a container inserted into said cavity, each of said gripping flanges including ~~[[an]]~~ a concave inner facet surface and ~~[[an]]~~ a convex outer facet surface with a facet interface edge therebetween.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The cupholder of claim 2 wherein said facet interface edge joins said first and second gripping flanges along an upper end of said interface edge thereof.
4. (Original) The cupholder of claim 1 further comprising a cut-out area below said first and second gripping flanges for accepting a lower rim of a cup therein.
5. (Currently Amended) The cupholder of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1 wherein said concave inner facet~~[[s]]~~ surfaces of said first and second gripping flanges, respectively, meet at a parabolic junction region along a top end of said holding extension thereof.
6. (Original) The cupholder of claim 1 wherein said at least one cavity has a frusto-conical shape extending from a cavity mouth at a top end of said cavity to a cavity base at a bottom end of said cavity.

7. (Original) The cupholder of claim 6 wherein said cavity base comprises a raised portion having rim gripping regions.

8. (Original) The cupholder of claim 1 being constructed of molded fiber material.

9. (Currently Amended) A cupholder comprising:
a plurality of cup-holding cavities, each of said cavities having an inner wall extending in a frusto-conical shape from a cavity mouth to a cavity base, said cavity base being narrower than said cavity mouth;

each of said cup-holding cavities having
a plurality of holding extensions extending inwardly toward a center of said cavity, each of said holding extensions having first and second gripping flanges extending inwardly into said cup-holding cavities;

concave inner and convex outer facet[[s]] surfaces on each said gripping flange[[s]] meeting at a facet interface edge adapted to contact a container inserted into said cavity; and

first and second gripping points extending inwardly toward each other at bottom ends of paired ones of said gripping flanges.

10. (Original) The cupholder of claim 9 wherein said gripping points are adapted to provide a gripping force toward each other when a container is inserted into one of said cavities.

11. (Canceled) ~~The cupholder of claim 9 being constructed of molded fiber material.~~

12. (Previously Presented) The cupholder of claim 9 wherein each of said cavity bases is provided with a raised portion therein, said raised portion including a rim gripping region adapted to contact a lower rim of a cup inserted into said cavity.

13. (Currently Amended) The cupholder of claim 12 wherein said rim gripping region includes a support region adapted to contact a bottom of a cup inserted into said cavity.

14. (Previously Presented) The cupholder of claim 12 wherein said raised portion of said cavity base and said gripping flanges of each said holding extension oppose each other across a rim gripping region adapted to secure a cup within said cupholder.

15. (Currently Amended) A cupholder cavity comprising:
a cavity mouth;
a cavity base below said cavity mouth, said cavity base having a smaller diameter than said cavity mouth;
a plurality of holding extensions extending inwardly toward a center of said cavity;
a plurality of outwardly-curved walls positioned between adjacent ones of said holding extensions, said outwardly curving walls being arrayed in a frusto-conical shape between said cavity mouth and said cavity base;
first and second gripping flanges extending inwardly from each of said holding extensions, each of said first and second gripping flanges having [[an]] a concave inner facet surface and [[an]] a convex outer facet surface, said inner and outer facets meeting at a facet interface edge; and
junction regions at upper portions of said holding extensions where said inner facet[[s]] surfaces of said gripping flanges meet.

16. (Original) The cupholder cavity of claim 15 wherein each of said gripping flanges terminates at a lower edge thereof at a gripping point such that two gripping points in each of said holding extensions oppose each other toward a lower end of each of said holding extensions.

17. (Original) The cupholder cavity of claim 15 further comprising a raised portion in said cavity base, at least a portion of said raised portion of said cavity base being adapted to contact an inner lower rim of a container inserted into said cupholder.

18. (Original) The cupholder cavity of claim 15 wherein each of said holding extensions terminates at a lower end thereof at a cut-out area, said gripping flanges being moveable outwardly above said cut-out areas.

19. (Original) The cupholder cavity of claim 16 wherein said gripping points are adapted to provide a gripping force on a lower edge of a container inserted into said cavity.

20. (Canceled) ~~The cupholder cavity of claim 15 wherein said holding extensions number three and said holding extensions are spaced approximately equidistantly from adjacent ones of said holding extensions within said cavity.~~

21. (New) The cupholder of claim 1, wherein the concave inner facet surface is offset from the convex outer facet surface to define a stepped relation at the facet interface edge.

22. (New) The cupholder of claim 9, wherein the concave inner facet surface is offset from the convex outer facet surface to define a stepped relation at the facet interface edge.

23. (New) The cupholder of claim 15, wherein the concave inner facet surface is offset from the convex outer facet surface to define a stepped relation at the facet interface edge.